

OBEY VISITS BALSAM LAKE HEAD START PROGRAM

BALSAM LAKE, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Balsam Lake today for an update on the local Head Start program. CESA 11 Head Start/Early Head Start received \$430,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help Head Start programs retain staff and improve their programs and facilities. As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Obey was a lead author of the Recovery Act.

"Helping kids succeed in life is probably the most fundamental, long-term economic stimulus possible. I am glad to be here in Balsam Lake to see, first-hand, how programs like this give families the tools and support they need to raise children that are healthy and ready for school," Obey said. "I am also glad to see federal dollars giving the people working in Head Start the tools they need to do their job."

CESA 11 Head Start/Early Head Start received \$430,000 of ARRA funding, of which nearly \$300,000 is allocated for the retention of staff. The remaining funds were used to remodel the Rice Lake Head Start Center and to replace the boiler at the Polk County Early Learning Center

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Head Start provides grants to local agencies, including non-profit organizations, schools, and community action commissions, to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. In Wisconsin, there are over 50 Head Start programs serving over 16,000 children with more than 3,000 staff.

More information on the federal Head Start Program can be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>

More information on Head Start in Wisconsin can be found at: <http://www.whsaonline.org/>

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